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# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS:

<i>Fishes, Living and Fossil</i> : THEO. GILL .....	909
<i>Food of the European Rook (Corvus frugilegus)</i> : F. E. L. BEAL.....	918
<i>An Investigation with Röntgen Rays on Germinating Plants</i> : H. J. WEBBER.....	919
<i>Current Notes on Physiography</i> :—	
<i>Great Valley of California; Norwegian Coast Plain; Equatorial Counter Currents; Planetary and Terrestrial Currents</i> : W. M. DAVIS.....	920
<i>Current Notes on Meteorology</i> :—	
<i>The Climatology of Maryland; Meteorological Observations in Schools; Other Noteworthy Publications</i> : R. DEC. WARD.....	922
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> :—	
<i>Astronomy</i> : H. J. Honey Ants: L. O. H. Contributions from the Missouri Botanical Garden; General.....	922
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	927
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>The Application of Sex Terms to Plants</i> : CHARLES R. BARNES .....	928
<i>Scientific Literature</i> :—	
<i>Livi's Antropometria Militare</i> : FRANZ BOAS. Crocker's <i>Electric Lighting</i> : A. S. KIMBALL. Nehrling's <i>Native Birds of Song and Beauty</i> ; Hahn's <i>Die Haustierte</i> : C. H. M. <i>The Gypsy Moth</i> : L. O. HOWARD.....	929
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :—	
<i>Biological Society of Washington</i> : F. A. LUCAS. <i>Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia</i> : EDW. J. NOLAN. <i>The New York Section of the American Chemical Society</i> : DURAND WOODMAN. <i>The Torrey Botanical Club</i> : W. A. BASTEDO. <i>Kansas University Science Club</i> .....	934
<i>New Books</i> .....	936

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## FISHES, LIVING AND FOSSIL.

A TEXT-BOOK of Ichthyology embodying the results of recent investigation and taking cognizance of both living and extinct forms has long been a desideratum. Dr. Günther's 'Introduction to the Study of Fishes' (1880) did not at all represent the condition of ichthyology even at the time of its original publication, and the German translation (1886) was scarcely more than a reproduction, in another language, of the original work and retained almost all its numerous defects and errors. Those defects and errors were especially manifest in the treatment of the extinct forms. The increase in our knowledge of past types, too, has been very great within the last decade, owing to the labors of Mr. Smith Woodward, Prof. Cope and others. The desideratum indicated, to a certain limited extent, has been supplied so far as the 'fossil' fishes are concerned, in a recent work, by Dr. Dean, of New York, entitled 'Fishes, Living and Fossil.\*' But it is not, as the author confesses, an elaborate introduction to ichthyology; its 'object is to enable the reader to obtain a convenient review of the most important forms of fishes and of their structural and developmental characters'

\* *Fishes, Living and Fossil*. An outline of their forms and probable relationships. By Bashford Dean, Ph. D., Instructor in Biology, Columbia College, New York City.—New York: Macmillan & Co. 1895. (Columbia University Biological Series III.—8vo, xiv, 300 pp.)